

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 231737
ORIGIN HA-05

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CA - R. DEVLIN

EUR/WE -

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, SREF, VN, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH ASSISTANCE WITH TRAVEL DOCUMENTS FOR
DEPARTURES FROM VIETNAM

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED LETTERS RECENTLY FROM AMERICAN CITIZENS
ATTEMPTING TO ASSIST THEIR RELATIVES TO LEAVE VIETNAM TO
COME TO THE U.S., INFORMING US THAT THS SRV HAS NOW ISSUED
EXIT VISAS TO THE RELATIVES, BUT THAT THEY ARE UNABLE TO
DEPART UNLESS THEY RECEIVE A FRENCH LAISSEZ PASSEZ OR OTHER
,-AVEL DOCUMENT. THESE ARE RELATIVES FOR WHOM INS HAS
ISSUED I-171 APPROVALS OF RELATIVE IMMIGRANT VISA PETITIONS.

2. FRENCH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS ADVISED SUCH FAMILIES
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PAGE 02 STATE 231737

IN THE U.S. THAT THEIR RELATIVES IN VIETNAM WOULD FIRST HAVE
TO OBTAIN A QUOTE CERTIFICATE D'HEBERGEMENT TEMPORAIRE UNQUOTE
FOR FRANCE BEFORE SUCH A TRAVEL DOCUMENT COULD BE ISSUED.

3. HA DEP. ASST. SEC. SIEVERTS RAISED SUBJECT SEPT. 8 WITH
FRENCH MINISTER BOYER AND COUNSELOR JULIENNE, TO MAKE POINT
THAT TEMPORARY RESIDENCE CERTIFICATE APPEARED TO BE

UNNECESSARY REQUIREMENT IN VIEW OF VIRTUAL ASSURANCE THAT THE AMCIT RELATIVES WOULD OBTAIN U.S. VISAS WHEN THEY ARRIVED IN BANGKOK. THE RELATIVES MIGHT NEVER EVEN TRANSIT FRANCE, OR IF THEY DID, THEY WOULD ALREADY BE IN POSSESSION

OF A U.S. VISA. FRENCH EMBOFFS SAID THEY UNDERSTOOD THIS POINT AND WOULD COMMUNICATE AT ONCE WITH PARIS AND THEIR BANGKOK EMBASSY TO SEE IF THE REQUIREMENT FOR A RESIDENCE PERMIT COULD BE WAIVED IN SUCH CASES, WHERE AN APPROVED I-171 HAS BEEN ISSUED.

4. JULIENNE NOTED HE HAD JUST SEEN A MESSAGE FROM THE FRENCH CONSUL IN HO-CHI-MINHVILLE DESCRIBING LONG LINES OF APPLICANTS FOR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, MANY OF WHOM NOW HAVE EXIT PERMITS. HE SAID THE CONSULATE HAS A SMALL STAFF WHICH IS HEAVILY BURDENED, AND THAT THIS OBVIOUSLY WAS PART OF THE PROBLEM.

5. DEPTOFFS SAID THEY FULLY UNDERSTOOD THE PROBLEM, AND THAT USG WAS GRATEFUL FOR WHAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS DONE TO ASSIST IN THESE HUMANITARIAN CASES.

6. DEPTOFFS SUGGESTED THAT A PROCEDURE BE ESTABLISHED WHEREBY U.S. CONSULAR OFFICIALS IN BANGKOK INFORM FRENCH EMBASSY OF APPROVED I-171'S WHEN WE ARE INFORMED (BY THE FAMILIES IN THE U.S.) THAT AN SRV EXIT PERMIT HAS ALSO BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 231737

ISSUED, AND THAT THESE CASES THEN BE EXPEDITED BY THE FRENCH CONSUL IN HO-CHI-MINHVILLE.

7. BOYER AND JULIENNE SAID THEY THOUGHT THAT SOUNDED REASONABLE AND WORTH A TRY, AND THAT THEY WOULD REPORT TO THIS EFFECT TO THEIR GOVERNMENT.

8. FOR BANGKOK: SUGGEST YOU DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH YOUR FRENCH COUNTERPARTS TO SEE WHAT CAN BE WORKED OUT. AS AN IMMEDIATE CASE, WE SUGGEST YOU PROPOSE ACTION ON RELATIVES OF RICHARD G. SCHENEK, OF NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. (WHO RECEIVED LETTER FROM VICE CONSUL PATRICIA KIM DATED JUNE 26, 1978). SCHENEK HAS PREPAID AIR TRANSPORTATION FROM HCMVILLE TO THE U.S., HAS APPROVED I-171'S, AND NOW (IN PAST MONTH) HAS WORD FROM HIS RELATIVES THEY HAVE EXIT PERMITS FROM SRV.

9. JULIENNE NOTED THAT THE FRENCH CONSUL IN HCMVILLE WOULD HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO INFORM THE PARTICULAR FAMILY OF HIS READINESS TO ISSUE A LAISSEZ-PASSEZ, WITHOUT CREATING A QUOTE RIOT UNQUOTE AMONG THE LONG LINES OF APPLICANTS. DEPTOFFS SUGGESTED THE CONSUL WRITE OR TELEPHONE THE

FAMILY ADVISING THEM TO COME AT A SPECIFIC OFF-HOUR TIME.

10. FOR PARIS: SUGGEST YOU ALSO FOLLOW-UP AT YOUR DIS-
CRETION ON THIS SUBJECT. CHRISTOPHER

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